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## NEWS

### Pascagoula woman wants to be like her mother

Monday, August 18, 2008

By **AMBER CRAIG**

PASCAGOULA -- Some people say they never want to become like their parents, but Katie Allsup is so proud of the work her mother does that she works right alongside her. Allsup, a 21-year-old college student, serves as volunteer coordinator for Jackson County Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA. CASA volunteers are assigned cases going through the Jackson County Youth Court and spend time with the child, the child's family and other people to make recommendations to the court on behalf of the child. Her mother, Frances Allsup, serves as CASA's executive director. As volunteer coordinator, Allsup spends her time supporting other volunteers and making sure they're assigned cases when available. Allsup sometimes takes on cases as a volunteer, too, when all the other volunteers are booked. "I just love helping out," Allsup said. "I just want to be a voice for that child in court." Allsup, a 2005 graduate of Ocean Springs High School, started volunteering for the organization in 2006 with Friends of CASA by cooking and manning booths at community events. She assumed the position of volunteer coordinator in February. Her plans are uncertain, Allsup said. She's studying nursing at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, but she doesn't know if she wants to pursue pediatrics or work in an emergency room. Volunteering with Biloxi Regional Medical Center one summer sparked an interest in the ER, but working with children for so long has made her realize that they are her passion. With no children of her own yet, Allsup enjoys spending time with her three nephews in Alabama. "I want about 10 of them," Allsup said. "I want to adopt some." Despite her busy schedule of work and school, Allsup enjoys one guilty pleasure: Shoe shopping. The footwear aficionado owns at least 100 pairs, "and that includes flip flops and tennis shoes." Her favorites are her six pairs of stylish Jessica Simpson shoes, but on Friday she was sporting a pair of New Balance tennis shoes in preparation for an outdoor back-to-school rally later that evening. Her life is guided by several mottos, like the one passed down from her grandfather to her mother and to her: "For every negative, you have to look for the positive." Allsup also lives by the advice her father often gives: "Sumo" your way through life. "Basically, just take it head on." Reporter Amber Craig can be reached at [acraig@themississippipress.com](mailto:acraig@themississippipress.com) or 228-934-1428. Age: 21 Hometown: Hokes Bluff, Ala., now lives in Ocean Springs Occupation: Volunteer coordinator with Jackson County Court Appointed Special Advocates Family: Parents, Jimmy and Frances Allsup To suggest someone for Gulf Coast Neighbors, call 228-934-1419 or e-mail to: [msnews@themississippipress.com](mailto:msnews@themississippipress.com).

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